

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### SensoreX Inc

#### California Manufacturing Technology Consulting

#### Sensorex Improves Turnaround Time by 80 Percent

##### Client Profile:

Sensorex, Inc., located in Garden Grove, California manufactures quality sensors for water applications. Sensorex manufactures more than 2,000 different sensor packages sold directly to OEMs or through their worldwide distributor network. Founded in 1972, the company employs 123 people.

##### Situation:

Sensorex had been faced with the challenge to continue to meet their customers' demands for both a high quality product and lower price. Customers had been looking for improved delivery and a reduction in lead time. The Sensorex management team determined that identifying and overcoming their internal constraints to increase productivity was a priority and called upon the California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTc), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

##### Solution:

CMTc conducted a three-phase Lean transformation project for a team of Lab 1 Sensorex employees. Phase 1 included an introduction to basic Lean principles. The team was lead through the Lean transformation process using Lean simulations to look at a current production method to identify potential improvement ideas to increase productivity. The team was also trained on cellular flow layout, Point of Use Storage (POUS), Kanban signals, batch size reduction, single piece flow and balanced work. Phase 2 was an introduction to the Value Stream Mapping (VSM) process and objectives. On the shop floor, the team mapped the flow of both product and information. The draft versions were validated for accuracy and reviewed by supervisors, managers and key process owners for clarity, accuracy and content. Phase 3 was a 'brainstorming' process to develop a list of possible improvements from the VSM. The team analyzed productivity issues and constraints and developed a prioritized list of 19 potential improvement actions. A formal presentation was made to management, and resources were consigned to the high priority recommendations. As a result of CMTc's assistance, Lab 1 is now set up as a 'self-contained' work cell. Employees have ownership of the process and an increased level of 'self-direction.' Work instructions have been simplified and made visual. Travel distance for both work in process and product has been reduced, and visual inventory indicators and Kanbans are in use to improve communication, reduce part shortage and improve productivity.

##### Results:

- \* Realized \$127,500 in cost savings.
- \* Increased productivity by 37.5 percent.
- \* Improved order turnover time by 80 percent.
- \* Reduced lead time from 3 weeks to 1 week.

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\* Reduced travel time by 75 percent.

**Testimonial:**

"I would recommend CMTC to any small manufacturing business. CMTC consultants were able to give us the framework and tools to implement dramatic positive changes quickly with immediate payback."

Jed McCarthy, President